

Message Text

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15
ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OAS, MX
SUBJECT: REACTION TO ORFILA SPEECH ON U.S.-LATIN AMERICA
RELATIONS

1. IN UNUSUALLY ACID TONES, GOVERNMENT-LINING "EL NACIONAL" EDITORIALIZED AUGUST 3 THAT OAS SEC GEN ORFILA HAD UNDERSTATED THE CRISIS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND LATIN AMERICAN MEMBERS OF OAS. THERE WAS "NOTHING NEW", SAID NACIONAL, IN ORFILA'S WARNINGS ABOUT THE DETERIORATION OF THE INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM, NOR IN HIS IDENTIFYING AS ONE OF THE PRIMARY CAUSES THE U.S. INABILITY TO UNDERSTAND CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN LATIN AMERICA AND DEVELOP AN ADEQUATE STRATEGY TO MEET THEM.

2. WELL AND GOOD FOR OAS TO TAKE UP THIS SITUATION IN UPCOMING SPECIAL MEETINGS ON CHARTER REFORM AND ON INCREASING COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT, NACIONAL SAID. DEALING SUCCESSFULLY WITH THESE PROBLEMS WOULD SURELY IMPROVE OAS IMAGE.

3. HOWEVER, CONTINUED NACIONAL, OAS CRISIS IS MUCH MORE COMPLEX THAN SUGGESTED BY ORFILA, AND ALLEGED INABILITY OF U.S. TO UNDERSTAND LATIN AMERICA--"THERE ARE NONE SO DEAF AS THOSE WHO WILL NOT HEAR"--IS ONLY ONE OF FORCES BREAKING UP INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM. OTHERS ARE LESS CLEARCUT BUT OBVIOUSLY COMPLEMENTARY AND UNDERSCORE ADVANTAGES FOR U.S. IN

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OUSLY COMPLEMENTARY AND UNDERSCORE ADVANTAGES FOR U.S. IN

LATIN AMERICAN DISUNITY:

--SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL REGIMES; WITH
EFFECT OF WEAKENING SOLIDARITY AMONG LATIN NATIONS;
--EXACERBATION OF THE "STRANGE FIGHT" BETWEEN HONDURAS
AND EL SALVADOR, SUGGESTING MANIPULATION AND PLOTTING "FROM
THE SHADOWS" FOR DIVISIVE PURPOSES;
--PRESSURES AIMED AT DELAYING LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC
INTEGRATION AND PROMOTING VIOLENT POLITICAL CONFRONTATIONS
WITHIN EACH COUNTRY.

4. ALL OF THE THIRD WORLD IS THREATENED WITH EROSION OF
UNITY, CONCLUDED NACIONAL, BUT IN LATIN AMERICA EFFECT IS
TO SEPARATE REGION FROM OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES AND SET
NATIONS AGAINST EACH OTHER. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT
IS OBVIOUS THAT LATINS WILL NOT HAVE DECISIVE STRENGTH TO
REVITALIZE OAS AND INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM--"AND THIS PERHAPS
IS WHAT IS BEING SOUGHT."

5. COMMENT: EDITORIAL IS CERTAINLY ONE OF THE MOST VICIOUS
WE HAVE SEEN IN NACIONAL IN RECENT MONTHS AND IS REMARKABLE
FOR THINNESS OF VEIL BEHIND WHICH IT BLAMES U.S. FOR INTRA-
LATIN SQUABBLES AND DISUNITY (EVEN SALVADOR-HONDURAS
FEUD). GIVEN PAPER'S CLOSE TIES TO GOM POLICYMAKERS,
EDITORIAL SEEMS PART OF WHAT WE FEAR IS RISING NEW WAVE OF
PARANOIA OVER ALLEGED U.S. "DESTABILIZATION" DESIGNS AGAINST
MEXICO.
JOVA

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